

BLACK FLAG



Vol. V.

No. 10

SEPTEMBER 1979

20p

Organ of the Anarchist Black Cross

HAVE YOU CONSPIRED WITH PERSONS UNKNOWN?



Ronan Bennett



Iris Mills



Trevor Dawton



Vince Stevenson

**TRIAL DATE
SEPTEMBER
17th**



Taff Ladd

BLACK FLAG

Organ of the Anarchist Black Cross

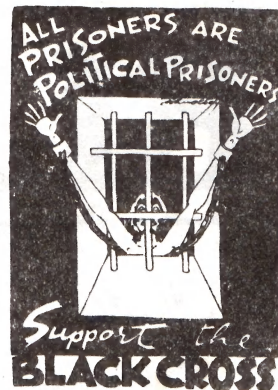
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ANARCHO-QUIZ

1. English sympathisers planned to release Italian political prisoners (1854/5). What position was held by the instigator of the plot in London; what by the man who introduced the conspirators to the revolutionaries in Turin (realising they could do the job better than the liberals) and finally, what position did the main financial supporter later hold? - (all showing how different times are if you think of it happening today with, say, the Red Brigades prisoners).

2. Whatever happened to Kropotkin's writing desk?

3. Which Socialist writer, regarded as a pioneer of bourgeois feminism and the Women's Movement of the day, (the New Woman) not only approved of Bolshevik Communism - regarding it as Social Democracy carried to a logical conclusion - but supported Franco's rebellion "as a Communist" (disbelieving in parliamentary democracy), and always supported strong man rule in the forms of Nazism and Fascism (though against racialism), expressing extreme, explicit anti-Anarchism in every political statement and in non-political writings?

4. Which "respected" French statesman perpetrated repeated brutal murders of Anarchist women - and other women merely presumed to be - and why?

5. What group of philosophers is generally held to have been the precursors of the modern Anarchist movement?

6. The centenary of the birth of which Mexican revolutionary occurs in August this year?

PROBLEMS OF BLACK FLAG

Our last issue was produced under difficulties, on a variety of electric typewriters. It didn't turn out so badly as we feared, but wasn't out until mid-August though dated July. As it contained an important manifesto by Lorenzo Komboa, we hope comrades will continue to push it even when this issue is out.

The problems regarding the production of the Flag are now virtually over, as we have obtained a new electric typewriter suitable for our purposes, though not for production of the Review. Cost is £750 so our balancesheet will take a nosedive unless, by the time it is published in the next issue, all good people come to the aid of the typewriter.

'PERSONS UNKNOWN' EVENTS

BENEFIT SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 7.30 p.m.
CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE
BANDS: CRASS, POISON GIRLS & RONDOS.
(Nearest tube station: HOLBORN)

PUBLIC MEETING SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2 pm
CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQ.
SPEAKERS will include some
of the DEFEND NTS.

SOCIAL SATURDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 7 p.m.
ROEBUCK PUB, TOTENHAM COURT ROAD
(Nearest tube: GOODGE STREET)

PICKET MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 9 am.
OLD BAILEY COURT
(Nearest tube: ST. PAUL'S)

Answers on page 15

'PERSONS UNKNOWN' CONSPIRACY: the last 15 months

The Support Group for the 5 anarchists who will be going to trial at the Old Bailey on 17th September this year is called 'Persons Unknown'. The name comes from the 'conspiracy' charges against them stating that they "conspired with persons known and unknown". The idea is that with the vagueness of the conspiracy charges anyone else could be a potential suspect.

Couple held in anti-terror raid

The first arrests came in May 78 when on Wednesday 24th Iris and Rohan were raided by the Anti-Terrorist Squad and picked up under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). (They had been held under this Act the previous year, in May 77, when the police had tried to deport Ronan back to Northern Ireland. His appeal against this was successful and he was allowed to stay.) This time the police charged the two on a serious charge of 'Conspiracy to Cause Explosions'. They were held as top-security prisoners, which meant for Iris being held in solitary confinement in a men's prison - they said the women's prison was not secure enough to hold her. From the start the strictest rules applied to her - the conditions were seen as a deliberate attempt to break her as they were usually reserved for Irish political prisoners.

Arrests 'foil blast plan'

A week later Taff Ladd was arrested also and charged with the same conspiracy. He too was held in top security. Altogether about 80 homes of anarchists and other left-wing people up and down the country were raided. In many cases the police burst in holding guns - an unusual course in a country which prides

itself on its unarmed police force. In all cases what the police were most interested in were photo albums, address books and other such documents.

On 12th June, Stewart Carr was arrested. He was known to the others and picked up because of this association. While in police custody he apparently made statements about a series of armed robberies. Nevertheless he was charged on the 'conspiracy to cause explosions' charge with the others.

A month later, at the beginning of July, two others who also called themselves anarchists were arrested. Vince Stevenson, who had been instrumental in setting up the support group for those already arrested, and student Trevor Dawton. It was alleged that a holdall containing guns and ammunition had been found in the flat of a friend where they had stayed. They too were charged with 'conspiracy to cause explosions' and held as top security prisoners.

They were taken each week to the magistrates court for Remand hearings (- these "hearings" continue until defendants are committed, or not, for trial.) In most cases the remand period is very brief; perhaps a matter of weeks rather than months. In this case



the remand period lasted in all for seven months and in the end the magistrates in the court were reprimanding the Anti-Terrorist Squad and the public prosecution office for delaying the procedure - this was because the police had absolutely no evidence to show that any of those arrested were involved in such a conspiracy.

The remand hearings were held at Lambeth magistrates court, supposedly as it was a more secure court. Detective Superintendent Bradbury (in charge of the case) had said that there was a danger that an armed attack may be made on the court to free the defendants. From the beginning the court was 'protected' inside and out by armed Special Patrol Group police. The defendants were at first taken into the dock each handcuffed to 2 Anti-Terrorist Squad thugs. The defendants demonstrated their strength within the expensive state spectacle by managing to get the handcuffs removed, by their persistence in turning their backs on the court and shouting protests from the dock, such as "We are your dissidents".

People entering the area around the court were searched and photographed. Only 6 people were allowed into the public gallery and they were thoroughly searched and watched over by the armed police who ringed the courtroom. There was also a restriction on the press being allowed into court and at one time a journalist from the Irish Times was refused admission until the other journalists demonstrated on his behalf. The police harassed the defence solicitors, searching their papers and refusing them access to their clients at the court.

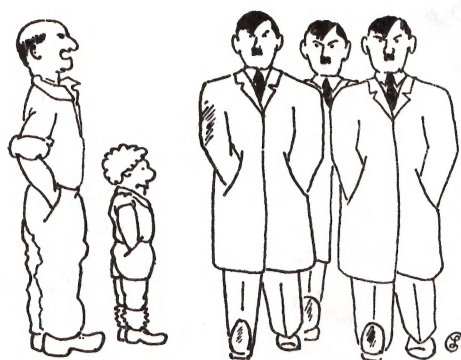
Friday November 10 1978

Bomb charges withdrawn

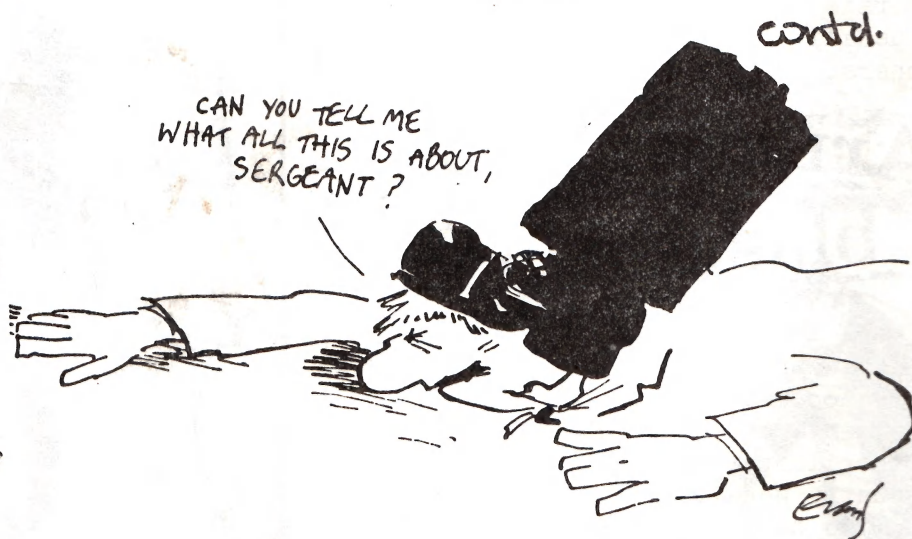
In November 78, six months after the first arrests and a month before the committal hearings, the 'conspiracy to cause explosions' was suddenly dropped and a new charge of 'conspiracy to rob' was brought instead. This later charge hinges on the alleged admissions by Stewart Carr and the association of the five anarchists with him.

However, on 28th September 78, while the 'conspiracy to cause explosions' charge still stood, Trevor Dawton was released on bail by the magistrates. Then, despite the fact that she was "to dangerous" to be held in the Womer's prison, on 26th October Iris was also released on bail....There were strict conditions applied to the bail - a 10pm curfew and reporting every day to a local police station. Trevor had sureties of £20,000 and Iris of £10,000.

The releases came because, although the charges were very serious, the magistrates had seen the police case crumble. At the beginning the D/S (Bradbury) in charge of the case, had stood up and said: "These are a group of idealists who would take positive steps to overthrow society". Later on he was dropped from the case; Persons Unknown believe this was to save his reputation, as most of the defendants were released on bail despite heavy police objections.



THEM? JUST SOME WEST GERMAN HIGH COURT JUDGES



On 11th December, Vince Stevenson was released on bail and later at the Committal hearings on 21st December, Taff Ladd was also given bail. The only one of the five not to be granted bail was Ronan Bennett. He has consistently been refused bail on the grounds that he is Irish. Ronan's background in Northern Ireland is being used by the police to create an insinuation of an 'international terrorist conspiracy'. Moreover the police have said on numerous occasions to different people that they are out to 'get' him.

The police were very put out when the defendants started to be released on bail. They believed they had set up such an atmosphere of tension with their "top security" antics that the magistrates would be suitably impressed. Indeed they were at first, but eventually even they saw through the transparency of the police case. When Taff was given bail the Anti-Terrorist Squad harassed his surities and tried to pressurise them into standing down. Because of this Taff was not released until 10 weeks later at the beginning of March 79.

The charges that the five are facing are still very serious - they could be sentenced to 'life' imprisonment if found guilty. The substance of the charges is not any specific accusations of actual robbery but the fact that all the defendants called themselves anarchists. The police are using this to identify them as part of a cohesive group although they did not all know each other previously. Moreover the police are caricaturing anarchists as deviants/criminals/conspirators to 'prove' that they would have taken part in this alleged 'conspiracy'.

The first words uttered against them by the prosecuting counsel at the Committal Hearing on 21st December 78 were : "these are a group of self-confessed anarchists..." At an earlier Remand Hearing the Police stood up to say that " These are a group of idealists who would take positive steps to overthrow society."



It is the Police who have made the case into a 'political' one; this is most unusual. The Courts in this country have always denied that we have political trial or political prisoners and have refused defendants the opportunity to make political statements. However, uniquely in this case, the prosecution, defining the political outlook as illegal, has put them in the position of having to define and explain their beliefs.



A C.N.T Demonstration at Hospitalet (Barcelona) for the libertarian prisoners.

'P.U.' CHRONOLOGY

I knew girl at 'bomb' flat—actress

24 May 78: Iris Mills & Ronan Bennett picked up in a raid on their flat.

25 May: Press reports concerning "BOMB FACTORY FLAT" etc.

27 May: Police hunt for car "FULL OF BOMBS supposedly "BOOBY TRAPPED". Iris & Ronan appear at Marleybone Magistrates Court charged with 'conspiracy to cause explosions'.

2 June: Raid on hose in North London, Taff arrested.

3 June: 'wanted' car found dumped over a cliff in Wales.

5 June: Taff Ladd with Iris & Ronan appear at Marleybone Court. All refused Bail and remanded in custody - the they protest at being handcuffed - Iris protests at being kept in solitary.

8 June: First Remand hearing at Lambeth Court - more secure. Armed police guard the court inside and out.

21 June: First news of Stewart Carr also charged with the others of 'conspiracy to cause explosions'.

4 July: Vince Stevenson picked up.

7 July: Press reports "ANARCHIST CELL HIT IN ARMS RAID". Trevor Dawton arrested. Arms & ammunition found on a raid in North London.

10 July: Vince & Trevor appear in court charged with 'conspiracy to cause explosions'.

13 July: Remand hearing at Lambeth. They protest about Iris's conditions - conditions - Ronan shouts "we are your dissidents". They are dragged from the dock and beaten up, then brought back one by one.

MORNING STAR June 6 1978

BOMB CASE 3 DRAGGED FROM DOCK

JUNE/JULY: 80 raids up and down the country.

15 August: Brixton prison, where the defendants are being held, visits are cancelled in an extensive search for a gun - none is found.

24 August: Even stricter security conditions at Lambeth court. Two members of the support group arrested and held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act for what turns out to be one small unpaid fine.

19/20 September: Numerous identity parades held. These parades fail to give grounds for adding "further serious charges" that the police claimed.

28 September: Trevor granted bail Sureties of £10,000, curfew and daily reporting.

16 November: 'Conspiracy to cause explosions' charge dropped.

23 November: 'Conspiracy to rob' charge substituted.

11 December: Vince granted bail. Sureties £16,500, curfew, daily reporting.

21 December: Committal hearings. Committed for trial at the Old Bailey. Taff granted bail. Sureties £17,000, curfew and daily report.

NOV/DEC: Ronan had applied for bail but been refused on the grounds that he is Irish and might abscond to that country.

JAN/FEB: Taff held in prison due to Terrorist Squad harassment of his sureties.

20 Feb '79: Defendants decategorised from top security. Moved to general prison population.

1 March: Taff finally released on bail. Defendants on bail managed to get the curfew raised but still report daily.
TRIAL DATE SET FOR 10TH SEPTEMBER AT THE OLD BAILEY.



The march to the demonstration near Barcelona (see page 5).

Special Branch on Heat

British legal history is to be made at the forthcoming trial of Anarchists by the admitted "political vetting" by Special Branch of jurors. It is extraordinary - perhaps encouraging? - that Special Branch have decided that so great is the spread of anarchist influence they feel out of a dozen randomly selected jurors there is the risk of an anarchist majority, hence they require unlimited vetting of all prospective jurors.

But when jurors are checked for political sympathies, Special Branch will cut out anyone of any liberal sympathies whatsoever and try to finish with a panel of extreme Statists. Inquiries into one's private life and political preferences can be intimidating to jurors.

BUT WHY THIS RATTLE OF PISTOLS NOW?

This clear indication that the authorities intend to stage as a political trial makes the nature of the frame-up plain. Nobody would comment on a trial that is proceeding if it concerned criminal matters. Yet here we had a blaze of publicity, from the police directly in court and indirectly through press statements ("anarchists to raid London...bomb factory..."fiendish

shock horror and the rest of it) that a clique within the police, highly politically motivated and ambitious, was pressing charges both extreme and of their nature impossible. "They wanted to overturn society"!

In the Thorpe case the credibility of the witnesses evaporated during the hearings. Here the very witnesses evaporated. The charges diminished, apparently to be blown up again by press coverage when the trial opens.

In the Thorpe case the political police aiming at a foothold in politics tried to blast out Liberal Party credibility and remove the competitor for the Centre. (What would have happened had not Mrs. Thorpe - with her royal connections - stood firm?) The political police seized certain advantages Mr. Thorpe gave them. Maybe the defendants, or some of them, in this case, have given footholds to the Police to grab them. That does not mean they are guilty, even of the catch-all law of "conspiracy". But a clear light is seen directed upon those who bring such charges. The very language in which the charges or assertions or insinuations are couched is redolent of right wing bigotry and the

authoritarianism of the inner councils of the political police. It is to be seen how they face the light of day in court - or if the jury is to be threatened with the "investigative" powers of Special Branch.

The offences, charged as they now stand - and even as they did originally - are pretty run-of-the-mill stuff - petty raids such as happen dozens of times a month and perhaps more, robberies with real and imitation pistols, the sort of attacks that pile up in the unsolved crimes list month after month. What fool thinks they could "overturn society"? Why, if they are genuinely alleged and genuinely believed, did the police decide to make this a political show trial on Russian lines?

Did the decision to make it a political show trial come first, with the offences raked around for afterwards? This question is bound to be asked. The very first appearance before the magistrates brought up politics and a conspiracy to overthrow society; and - even before that - the very first police press conference was talking of "anarchist conspiracies", a raid "on London" and everything else fished out of the ragbag of Fascist denunciations of anarchism.

It only differed from Eastern Europe in that there the denunciations would have been fished out of the Leninist denunciations of anarchism - "petty bourgeois deviationists, adventurers, anarchist criminals, counter-revolutionaries"!!

BAIL FOR RONAN

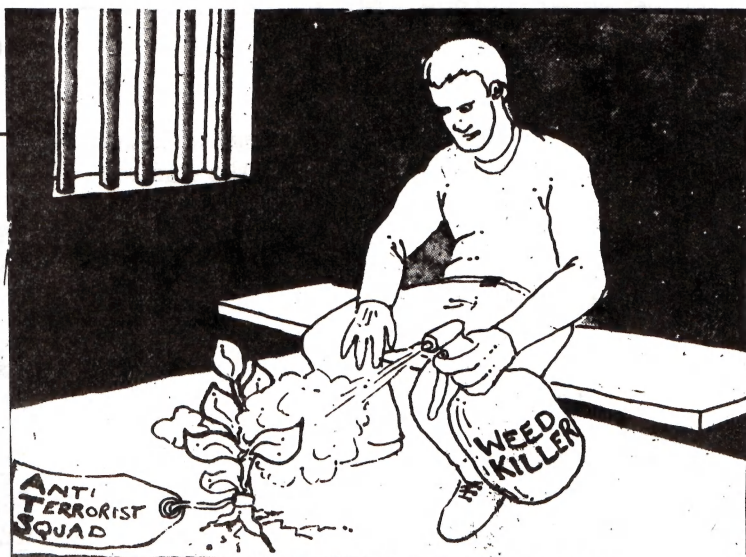
RONAN BENNETT was finally released on bail like four co-defendants who have also pleaded not guilty.

The police superintendant stated that bail was opposed in his case because of "the Irish connection".

Since the film "The French Connection" this can damn you. Ronan asked what the superintendant meant. "Your parents live in Belfast", he was told.

Yet at the beginning of the committals the police stressed "there is no Irish or Palestinian connection" and that it was "an anarchist conspiracy" - suddenly the Official I.R.A. was brought in. But there was no evidence and (after all the sureties were rounded up) Ronan went free - after 15 months in strict security.

How ironical that after all the strict security, including putting a woman in a man's jail because a woman's jail was not secure enough to hold her, all are free until the trial.



NOTES ON THE ANTI-TERRORIST BRANCH

The Anti-Terrorist Branch developed from the Bomb Squad which was first formed from the team set up to co-ordinate the investigations into the Angry Brigade after the Carr bombing. After the trials it was put on a permanent footing (strength 15) and moved from Barnet, Carrs local police station, to Scotland Yard. Under pressure of the I.R.A. campaign, the need to reorganise "C" (crime) Department and the political prestige of the Anti-Terrorist activity and ideology in the E.E.C. it was expanded and reorganised (strength 1973 - 100 members, 1975 - 300). In 1976 it became the Anti-Terrorist Branch (c.13), a separate Branch within "C" department, "to emphasise its responsibility for dealing with all terrorist activity" (R.Mark). But with the I.R.A. campaign over it had no work. Most of 1976 - 1977 was spent "in an intensive period of internal training...to ensure that sufficient officers were equipped to deal with terrorist offences..." Its strength was dropped from 300 to 30. This is not as dramatic as it sounds - many of the 300 were "on loan" from the Provincial Forces to help deal with the I.R.A. campaign and so were merely returned to them - having been trained of course in A.T.B. methods and "terrorist conspiracy" ideology.

The A.T.B. is a part of the Metropolitan Police - hence only responsible for investigations in the Met. Area. It is frequently called in on outside cases and is also in close contact with the provincial forces, the R.U.C., foreign Anti-Terrorist police and any local Bomb Squads set up around particular cases (e.g. Surrey 1974, after the Guildford Pub bombings). The A.T.B. works in conjunction with the Spec-

contd on page 1b

A CHILD'S GUIDE to *anarchy*

T.V. - "....and that would be the road to Anarchy."

Child: "What's Anarchy Dad?"

Adult: "That's down the road we must never go down."

Child: "Why?"

Adult: "Because it leads to chaos."

Child: "Do some people go down that road?"

Adult: "A few. They are anarchists."

Child: "Some people believe in Anarchy do they?"

Adult: "Not many, thank goodness."

Child: "They must be funny people. What do they do?"

Adult: "Well, the only ones I know of try and sing like Bessie Smith or write about modern Art."

Child: "Who is Bessie Smith?"

Adult: "A Black American Blues singer."

Child: "Did she live down the road we must never go down?"

Adult: "No. She sang tragic songs of great beauty."

Child: "What is modern Art, Dad?"

Adult: "Oh it's adults trying to draw like children or primitive people."

Child: "Why do they want to do that?"

Adult: "Because children and primitive people are closer to Nature."

Child: "Our drawings at school are us trying to be like adults."

Adult: "That's what Education's about, love"

Child: "Dad. If anarchists believe in chaos why do they draw and sing?"

Adult: "Oh only a few do that. They're the acceptable ones. I don't mind them - they are harmless eccentrics."

Child: "What's an eccentric Dad?"

Adult: "Someone who is a bit crazy."

Child: "Like crazy rhythm? Elvis and Rock and Roll?"

Adult: "Well, a bit like that."

Child: "Dad, I can't see why everyone's scared of anarchy if it's just a bit crazy?"

Adult: "It's very dangerous and violent. Yes violent. Anarchy is Terrorism."

Child: "Like the I.R.A.?"

Adult: "Sort of. They throw bombs."

Child: "Bombs? Why is that?"



Adult: "To cause chaos, they want to destroy."

Child: "But not the crazy rhythm ones Dad?"

Adult: "No. There are some non-violent anarchists."

Child: "Is that what they say Dad. 'I'm a non-violent anarchist'?"

Adult: "Yes. So it means even they know there are violent ones."

Child: "Have you ever met a violent one?"

Adult: "I think some of those punk rockers are violent anarchists."

Child: "Punk's rubbish."

Adult: "I don't know. It's got a lot of energy."

Child: "Rock and Roll is much better."

Adult: "So that's why Anarchy is dangerous."

Child: "Dad, how many violent anarchists are there?"

Adult: "I really don't know, I've never met one."

Child: "What's everyone scared about if there's so few around?"

Adult: "They are a dangerous few. Anarchy is a bad idea, it undermines society!"

Child: "With bombs - Boom!"

Adult: "It's not funny. Bombs can kill people."

Child: "Dad,how do you make bombs?"

Adult: " Don't be silly. Now what's on Telly?"

Child: " What's chaos Dad?"

Adult: " Where things are not in Order."

Child: " Like my room?"

Adult: " Sometimes, before your Mother tidies up."

Child: " And I can't find anything. I like chaos, I think Anarchy's o.k. if it's not violent."

Adult: " Now that's enough of that. In Spain the anarchists were organised and they took over the factories and land."

Child: " That must have been really chaotic!"

Adult: " It was a threat to Civilisation."

Child: " But if they believe in chaos Dad and violence it must have broken down. I can't see what you're so scared about. At school any of the kids who destroy things has lots of enemies."

Adult: " The trouble is that in Spain the anarchists were too damned successful. We must never let it happen again."

Child: " I don't see how chaos could be successful Dad!"

Adult: " Well in a Revolutionary atmosphere the anarchists organised Collectives and took over."

Child: " That wasn't chaos Dad. You said anarchists believed in chaos. What's a Collective anyway?"

Adult: " Oh, where everyone works together."

Child: " Dad. How can Anarchy be people working together. It's chaos!"

Adult: " It's dangerous."

Child: " Why?"

Adult: " Because people must do what they're told!"

Child: " I don't understand. Firstly there's non-violent anarchists who are harmless but who say there are also violent anarchists who have bombs and want to destroy things. Then you say they are dangerous, not because of bombs and chaos but because they are organised by working together. I think that's what you're worried about."

Adult: " I'm worried about unauthorised elements gaining power."

Child: " What's unauthorised Dad?"

Adult: " People who are not the Government."

Child: " Anarchists?"

Adult: " Yes."

Child: " How could they have any power if they are not the Government?"

Adult: " Because people support them."

Child: " If people support anarchists and not the Government, who is in authority Dad?"

Adult: " The Government of course! "

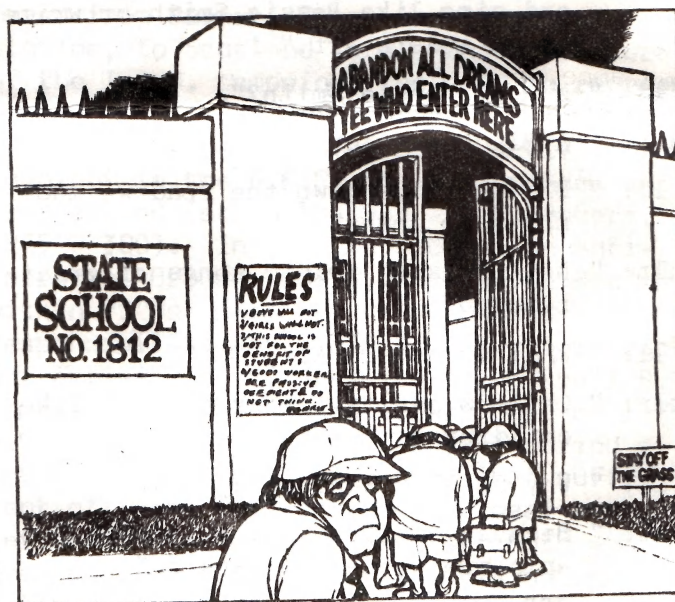
Child: " But Dad, if the unauthorised people gain power they are in authority aren't they? "

Adult: " That's what I'm worried about! "

Child: " But they are authorised by the people Dad."

Adult: " No, no, no. Authority is with the Government. "

Child: " But if the people change the Government to Anarchy, what then? " *contd p.14*



Surely there must be a more democratic way of running a school than the Prime Minister selecting a Minister of Education from an elected Parliament?

Glasgow Anarchist Group are raising money to publish a paper... it's organising a book sale and would appreciate books/mags/pamphlets.
John Cooper, 34 Raithburn Avenue, Castlemilk, Glasgow G45.....
Marie Bluebell tells us she's preparing an Anarchist Songbook - up-to-date with songs of struggle... any songs to contribute?

ROON'n'ABOUT

HER MAJESTY AS COVER

I understand that a member of the Royal Household - who regularly reads this and other subversive journals to see what they are saying about The Family - expressed great delight to an informant about a remark made here some issues back, when the Queen's going about accompanied only by a bored trained ape for security contrasted favourably with the cowardly hysteria shown by the French President, who regularly arranges swoops on dissidents whenever he has a distinguished visitor to 'his' country, 'theirs' also!

I wonder if the same source might point out delicately to Ma'am that she is involved in a shabby swindle by the Foreign Secretary using her as cover.

My passport reads: "Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Requests and requires in the Name of Her Majesty all those whom it may concern to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance, and to afford the bearer such assistance and protection as may be necessary."

In some national passports nothing of the sort is said and this is at least honest. The passport is rarely used to allow the bearer to pass freely, more often to hinder and delay, obstruct and frustrate. In the very passport with this grand declaration is a serial number from which the home or foreign security officials can read "Dangerous, keep out!", "question", "subversive political", "suspected pass to immigration control" and so on. In the name of "Her Britannic Majesty" let the person through and give them all assistance; in the name of Inter-pol keep them out and harry them. No need to say which takes priority.

MOUNTBATTEN

Naturally the deaths of Lord Mountbatten and his family may change the views of Security about how far Royalty can be permitted to walk around freely.

Mountbatten was far from being the worst of the Royals. Indeed, he was the only anti-Nazi in the pre-W.W.II Royal circle with its Germanic enthusiasms. He was

part of the weird Stalinist-Tory Popular Front which ended with his taking J.T. Murphy - the shop stewards movement's first shopfloor theorist - to serve him into British Intelligence.

The blowing up of the Mountbatten boat is not of relevance. But why have no heads fallen in the Anti-Terrorist Squad or Special Branch? Huge sums and enormous privileges have been given them, and they cannot provide cover for the most eminent in the land - because at the time they were busy harassing the Anarchists, carrying out raids throughout the land and keeping people under long periods of arrest - though they do not happen to be carrying out any acts of terrorism nor have the necessity to do so.

A general who allowed the other side to win a battle because he was too busy fighting his own idea of the real enemy would be court-martialled.

But these generals are, because of "security", judges of their own cause.



AS YOU ARE VEGETARIANS AND HAVE NO TV, WE ARE TAKING IN YOUR PARROT TO ASSESS ITS DEVELOPMENT

ABOLISH THE FOREIGN OFFICE!

In all the cuts in spending made by Sir Keith Joseph, and the swoops on 'scroungers', one solid body stands out against any cuts whatever and its scroungers are left undisturbed in their jobs, with inflation-proof pensions to follow. The whole diplomatic and consular service remains in its full Imperial splendour, though now almost totally monumental. Nations compete for bigger and better Embassies (the only purpose of which seems to be to receive protests). Yet travelling time has been cut as never before. The British Embassy in Stockholm fills its days with empty pagean-

try and amusement; but even if it had something to do, could it not equally cover Oslo, Helsinki, Copenhagen? Newspapers have long since given up the idea of a permanent representative for each important capital. They can send a journalist from London at an hour's notice.

Is it too much beneath an embassy or consulate to share premises? Church denominations are beginning to share - why not them?

Espionage is largely only a game nowadays; there are no secrets any longer - but if they must maintain it, why not do it through sources other than Embassies? The Russians manage an efficient military espionage source through voluntary political parties, the Israelis utilise a commercial chain store.

One used to be asked what would happen if one were stranded abroad but for the local consulate. Now travel agencies, banks and credit card companies have supplanted most of the work of the consulates. They would have before but for legal hindrance. But there are more consulates than ever! The commercial companies do it for profit. The consulates are a continual drag on the exchequer and their expenditure is largely unaccountable.

While the Tories are using the libertarian slogans of axeing bureaucracy, but only when it affects social welfare, let us remind them that the axe can fall without social damage on a very luxuriant growth of parasite in the Foreign Office.

BIG FRAME

In a curious pamphlet by a curiously-titled group, 'Big Flame' (a quasi-Marxist tendency taking its name from a successful T.V. play), Paul Thompson and Guy Lewis write a critique of Trotskyism - "The Revolution Unfinished?" It makes vaguely proud remarks such as that "at our 1976 conference we adopted a political position on the nature of Russia and China for the first time". If you believe what that seems to say, you can believe anything - and the pamphlet begins with a suitably grandiose declaration.

"The most important tendency on the revolutionary left in Britain today is Trotskyism (I.M.G., W.R.P., etc.) or "semi-Trotskyism" (IS). They are important not primarily because of size, but because Trotskyist politics has for a long time defined the terms of debate among revolutionary socialists. Anarchism is irrelevant, Maoists largely absent and an independent Marxist tradition weak."

For "revolutionary left" what one must read? The student movement? A gaggle of social workers? Some middle class drop outs on the fringes of the labour movement? The least important tendency in working class movement is surely the Trotskyists, an inbuilt movement of the academic world. Where there is no revolutionary working class movement - and there is none now in Britain, why not admit it? - it is dead. "Anarchism is irrelevant, Maoists largely absent and an independent Marxist tradition weak". Trotskyism grows where the working class has been elbowed out of politics, and a study of English Trotskyism shows this most brilliantly. This is why Paul Thompson and Guy Lewis carefully evade the origins and pioneers of English Trotskyism - and even the originators of Trotskyism as a theory (the cult was fostered by Max Eastman, not Trotsky himself - still a member of the Communist Party while the cult was being built).

For 'Big Flame', English Trotskyism begins in 1938 with the Revolutionary Socialist League and the Workers International League. Around the time when Trotsky - realising his middle-class Anglo-Catholic priestly supporters would never leap the hurdle of being a CP sect - imported the South African party lock stock and barrel into England. Some of them are still around as leaders of the Young Socialists.

TROT GENUFLECTION

Canards about Spanish Anarchism still persist. Sometimes not only untrue but impossible (like the one about leaving the front for weekends during the Spanish Civil War), sometimes taken straight from Grand Guignol - "they burned churches, raped nuns and killed priests". This was the mythology of Franco during the Civil War and a stock part of fascist ideology. It passed around Catholic circles for years.

After the war the Spanish clergy apologised for its role in the civil war. If the burned churches, raped nuns and killed priests story was only half-true, what had they, indeed, to apologise for? The Church's role was false propaganda and that was what it apologised for.

I hear of a Catholic Trotskyist who sincerely believes this happened and combines the (even odder) Trotskyist criticism with the clerical-fascist one.

What is there about libertarian socialism that causes this excessive fear?

Quite simple.

Totalitarianism of any sort - material or spiritual - would be left to stink in the gutter if people weren't frightened of lack of authority - or frightened themselves off.

"GROUSE"

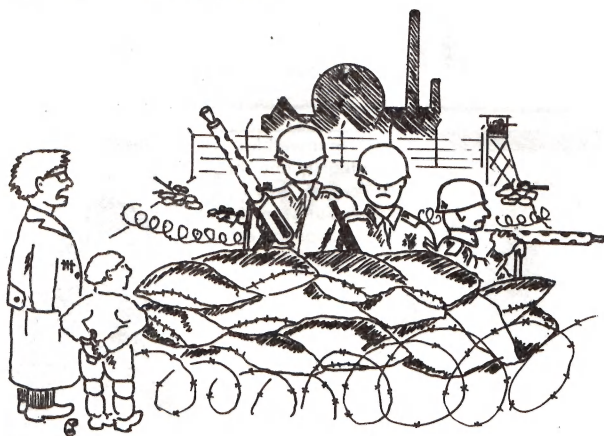
The English language contains two different meanings of the word "grouse".

The Cafe Royal in London is staging a week-long Festival of Grouse. Taking one meaning, this should mean the dispossessed wealthy, sitting round disconsolately grouching about the trade unions and the greedy workers. But it doesn't. It's the other sort of grouse: guests are sitting down, at £16.50 a head to dine on smoked salmon, grouse flown straight from Scotland, fresh raspberries and cream and all the trimmings.

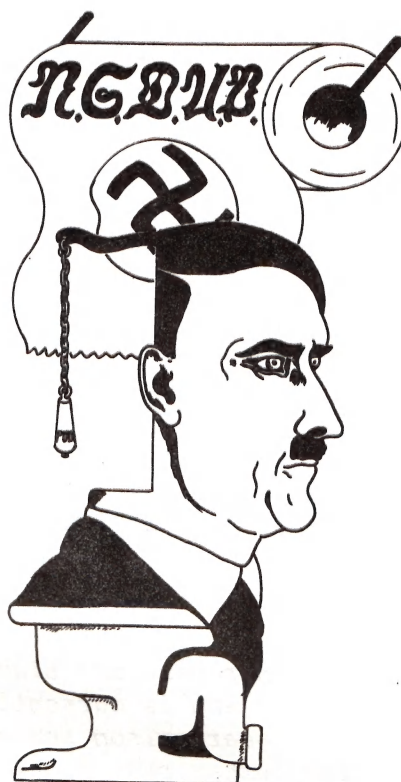
Looking through a local newspaper I came across the syllabus of the new evening courses from April 30 at Goldsmiths College, New Cross, under the auspices of the University of London. Amongst them is Anarchism - Theory and Practice.

An entire academic industry churns out lectures, courses, theses and treatises on Marxist-Leninism. An evening class course would be nothing unusual. But on Anarchism? Could one do more in a series of lectures than in one lecture? It is comparatively easy to grasp. But the test, like the theory itself, comes in action.

Yet is this correct? How often is the theory explained over and over again, and yet not only is it wilfully understood by the moulders of public opinion, and misunderstood by the many, it is often not clearly comprehended by those who would be activists.



"NUCLEAR POWER IS NOT SO EXPENSIVE, ITS JUST THE COST OF THE SECURITY THAT'S SO HIGH"



6

PRIMITIVE RITES AT CONWAY HALL

"ROCK AGAINST COMMUNISM" is the National Front's answer to "Rock Against Racism" and on September 18th at the Conway Hall, launched itself in the form of a rally incorporating both the rhythms of the goose step and the paraphernalia of punk. A few lefties turned up to picket but were insufficient in numbers to warrant much attention; the police nevertheless appeared as well with the necessary reserves to make certain that they got nowhere near to interrupt the event.

Three groups were to have entertained these staunch opponents of the Red (and Black) scourge: Screwdriver, White Boss and Homicide (although, appropriately, only the latter two were able to put in an appearance.)

One sinister aspect of the episode was revealed later when, after they had all departed, what appeared to be a decapitated black head was found nestling amongst the balcony seats. Fortunately this turned out to be only a clumsily sculptured polystyrene surrogate, presumably to be used as a football. Primitive rites - what would the anthropologists say about it all?

A touching little quote from Miss Joy Kinsley, Governor of Pucklechurch Remand Centre: "The prison service is probably one of the last ones left that actually cares for people. You can be refused admission to a hospital, a children's home or an old people's home, but we always take whoever is sent us."

Warms your heart, doesn't it?
There's always a bed and a roof waiting for you somewhere...the wonders of the welfare state.

prison news

PHIL RUFF

Phil Ruff, the anarchist and Black Flag contributor, who is currently serving a seven year prison sentence was moved from Durham prison early this year to Armly jail in Leeds. Phil has been kept in solitary confinement since the Gartree riot in 1978, on Rule 43.

Phil expects to be moved to a long-term prison in the Midlands sometime in September which would mean an end to solitary confinement.

Letters of support should be sent to Phil at: H.M. Prison, Armly, Leeds, LS12 9W (115117)

Letters to the Home Secretary asking why a long-term prisoner has been kept for eleven months in a short-term prison and in solitary confinement would also help Phil. A more detailed article will appear in the next issue.

Carl harp C-7100 was moved to California State Penitentiary San Quentin, California 94964 United States of America.

As from September 25th the 'Anarchist Student' a student news and theoretical Journal will be available by post at £1 for bundles of 25 copies. The paper will consist of an A3 broadsheet. Contributions etc. welcome and should be sent to P.N.L. Anarchist Society C/O S.U. Office, The Polytechnic of North London, N.W.5. The paper will appear termly and will be cover priced at 5p per copy. Please get articles in by September 15th at latest.

Jon Simcock.

Adult: " That's a disaster which must be put to rights immediately. "

Child: " How? "

Adult: " By all neccessary Force. "

Child: " That's a war against the people Dad. "

Adult: " No, no. That's the preservation of Law and Order. "

Child: " But Dad,....th t's destroying the people just because they don't do what you want them to do. "

Adult: " No. It's establishing the Rule of Law. "

Child: " Whose Law Dad? "

Adult: " The Law of the established Order. "

Child: " But that Order is with the people and that was what worried you. "

Adult: " It's us or them, Love. Us or them. "

Child: " Who are we Dad? "

Adult: " The civilised, sane people who support Law and Order. "

Child: " Until it is threatened Dad. Then it's us or them, eh? "

Adult: " We are not going to stand around and see our Civilisation destroyed! "

Child: " But Dad if it's a war of us against them, Civilisation will be destroyed.

Adult: " We mustn't come to that. We've got to prevent the Forces of Anarchy getting anywhere near the power they established in Spain. "

Child: " We've got to stop people taking the road to Anarchy eh Dad? "

Adult: " That's right. You're learning fast. This has been a useful discussion. You're learning Right from Wrong. Well done. "

Child: " I know what Anarchy is now Dad. We call it chaos but it really means the people Organised to take over. "



URGENT APPEAL

To all friends and supporters of George Blue -

Your support is needed now. On July 18th the District Court of the Western District of Oklahoma gave the U.S. Parole Commission 20 days to show cause as to why they are still holding George Blue in prison.

This action was taken after George Blue filed a petition of habeas corpus on July 17th seeking his release on the grounds that the Parole Commission violated his rights by (1) using two unfavorable incident reports which the courts had previously overruled; (2) using a summary report which had been falsified by the racist local parole commission; and (3) uncritically accepting a file with falsified memos full of unproven charges and allegations which made a fair hearing impossible.

George Blue has asked all his friends and supporters to send telegrams and mailgrams demanding his immediate release to:

Ronald L. Hornland
U.S. Magistrate, U.S. District
Court, Western District
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City,
Oklahoma. 73102. U.S.A.

All telegrams, mailgrams or letters should refer to Blue versus Parole Commission (CIV-79-810E) and should demand the immediate release of George Blue because his rights to "due process" have been violated by falsification of records and failure of the Parole Commission to follow previous court orders. Also all communications should point out that George Blue is being held in prison solely because of his political views and involvement in the struggle for prisoner rights.

Supporters of George Blue outside of the U.S. are also urged to phone, write or send telegrams to U.S. Embassies and consulates in their countries, asking that their views be passed on to Judge Hornland. We urge all our supporters everywhere to send telegrams and mailgrams directly to Judge Hornland.

Please act at once to aid George Blue's cause. Your telegram may make the difference. International support is crucial at this time.

With sincere thanks,
Mark Zucker.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

(as if you didn't know)

1. Anthony Panizzi, Librarian of the British Museum (himself a refugee from the tyranny in Sicily) organised the escape plot, with the aid of the British Minister at Naples, and amongst those financing the bid (frustrated by the ship chartered sinking at Yarmouth) was the then Conservative William Gladstone, later Liberal Prime Minister; it all had the blessing of the Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston.
2. Like many people of his generation, Peter Kropotkin highly prized his writing desk and when he left for Russia he gave it to the Brighton trade union club. It eventually passed into the hands of Brighton Labour Party who re-discovered it, with some surprise, the other year. Last news: they were looking for a wealthy collector.
3. George Bernard Shaw.
4. Louis Adolphe Thiers (1797-1877), chief of the executive power after the Second Empire fell (later President) who crushed the Commune of Paris. He was warned that if his troops bombarded Paris, his own house there would be burned. It was. Anarchist women having an incendiary rearguard against the Army, Thiers took revenge for his burned house (quite illegally even in warfare) by shooting and mutilating all women suspected of being incendiaries.
5. The watch and clock makers of the Jura (Switzerland).
6. Emiliano Zapata (There will be State celebrations in Mexico; and a book on his life published by Cienfuegos Press here. Which would he have preferred?)

NEXT MONTH: Feminism and letters on the Thatcher controversy (arising from last issue).

ial Branch (despite rivalry) and the S.P.G., and the whole complex of reorganised and co-ordinated detective squads: C.11 Criminal intelligence, C.7 Technical Equipment Branch (including Explosives and Forensic liason officers and surveillance specialists). It is often difficult to separate the A.T.B.'s essentially co-ordinative function from that of its main role.

The A.T.B. is very much a prestige squad (except in periods like 1976-7) and has been a springboard for dramatic promotions. It recruits mainly from C.11, Special Branch and the Robbery Squads. It has also been involved with other squads in the use of agents provocateurs (e.g. the Andy Ellesmore case re Flying Squad 1973, and B.Rose Smith quotes a case as late as 1977 involving the Special Branch). But since it normally becomes involved after events have taken place, the A.T.B. therefore concentrates on the alternative strategy of putting together "conspiracy" trials after arrests (i.e. collecting information on those arrested and collating "damaging" links). Doing this it is heavily reliant on publicity, which it manipulates to some effect. The A.T.B. has a mixed rate of success - a high conviction rate in I.R.A. cases, although this is as much due to hysteria generated by the campaign as the A.T.B.'s efforts. However, they have succeeded in refining the "political conspiracy" technique considerably since the unwieldy "Stoke Newington 8" model.

Equally important is its activity as a testing area for new methods and equipment and also its role as a "pressure group" on behalf of the "terrorist conspiracy" theory via lecturing, etc. Through Robert Mark and David McNee there has been found Commissioners willing to allow the development of this role. The A.T.B. engages in "emergency planning" via the preparation of publicity weapons - e.g. the film "Time of Terror" which gives a guide to spotting terrorists ("young...keep to themselves... women often act as couriers...like to live near underground...may not work regularly...often visit pubs but don't drink excessively...pay for goods in cash"). Also the A.T.B. has developed security techniques and exercises, as seen in operation "D-Day".

Incidentally, the A.T.B. has its own Branch tie with a symbol incorporating a bomb motif. It is based at New Scotland Yard and Paddington Green police station, the site of the first Angry Brigade bomb (10th Anniversary, next May 22nd). If you want you can wish them a happy anniversary on 01-230 2717 (Incident Room).

(From a pamphlet produced by 'PERSONS UNKNOWN available for 40p from Box 123, 182 Upper Street, London, N.1.)

Evening News

LODGE THURSDAY AUGUST 16 1975 10p

Top judges condemn 'military style' 7 am operation by 70 officers

TAX RAID ILLEGAL

THE TAXMAN was slapped by three Appeal Court judges this afternoon for overstepping his powers in military-style raids on homes and offices of people suspected of tax frauds.

And hundreds of documents including children's bank books, diaries, private letters and shorthand notebooks - which tax officers probably couldn't read anyway - must be handed back, said Master of the Rolls Lord Denning.

200 hours, said the judge, was 7 am and the officers hunted documents into plaster bag, from the officers and took virtually all documents from the homes of the two men.

"An assurance has been given like it in England before," said Lord Denning. "The only other comparable case was in 1961 when the King's Officers went out to arrest and seize documents belonging to John Wicks."

It had been said that to enter a

No seizure has been seen like it in England

man's house with a nationwide warrant was worse than the search of a house under a law which would not allow a search of a house to be made without a warrant, said Lord Denning.

The search and seizure warrants, obtained by the Inland Revenue did not specify that officers had, there must be 20 different types of tax evasion.

Power

"Those who demand the power to this way are people who seek the liberty of our society," said Lord Denning.

But the search and seizure law passed only narrow in Parliament could be an instrument of oppression in some hands.

When power is granted there is

*...Except like a year or so ago when armed thugs raided Anarchists all over the country smashing in on unarmed babies...and when they come for Irish people with 'connections' or 'suspected' young blacks...but NEVER BEFORE for middle class tax evaders.